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Tax Commission warns Utahns to be aware of ‘spoofing’ scam

Utah State Tax Commission officials are warning taxpayers to be on guard for telephone fraudsters who are attempting to steal identity and money by calling people from what appears to be the agency’s office.

Illegal caller ID “spoofing” occurs when a caller deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to the caller ID display to disguise their identity.

“We received phone calls yesterday from taxpayers saying they received suspected phone calls from what appeared to be the Tax Commission’s customer service 801 297-2200 number,” said Charlie Roberts, Tax Commission spokesperson.

The fraudster then asks for personal identification information and threatens them with criminal prosecution. They often use intimidating tactics to obtain and verify information such as threatening to seize their bank account or home.

“The Tax Commission will never initiate a call without first sending at least one letter,” Roberts said.

If callers receive suspected spoofing calls, the Tax Commission encourages people to tell the caller they will call the agency directly to resolve the issue and then just hang up.

Roberts said those people are encouraged to then contact the agency’s fraud specialist at 801 297-3822 and provide information about the suspected call.

Spoofing is often used as part of an attempt to trick someone into giving away valuable personal information so it can be used in fraudulent activity or sold illegally.

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